

Appendix E

Dividing the coast into management districts

Coastal planning or management districts were examined because of their potential to:

1. Enable us to consider a particular bay within the larger biophysical and social context of the area in which it is located;
2. Provide divisions for a regional council system in bay management (no longer being considered as an option);
3. Encourage better coordination between the various governmental and non-governmental groups doing coastal work can use similar divisions.

Several planning and management districts that already exist (see maps below):

Planning/Management-based divisions

- Regional planning councils
- Counties
- Lobster zone divisions
- Marine patrol divisions

Biophysical divisions

- Biophysical regions
- Watershed/drainage areas (shown on Beginning with Habitat map)

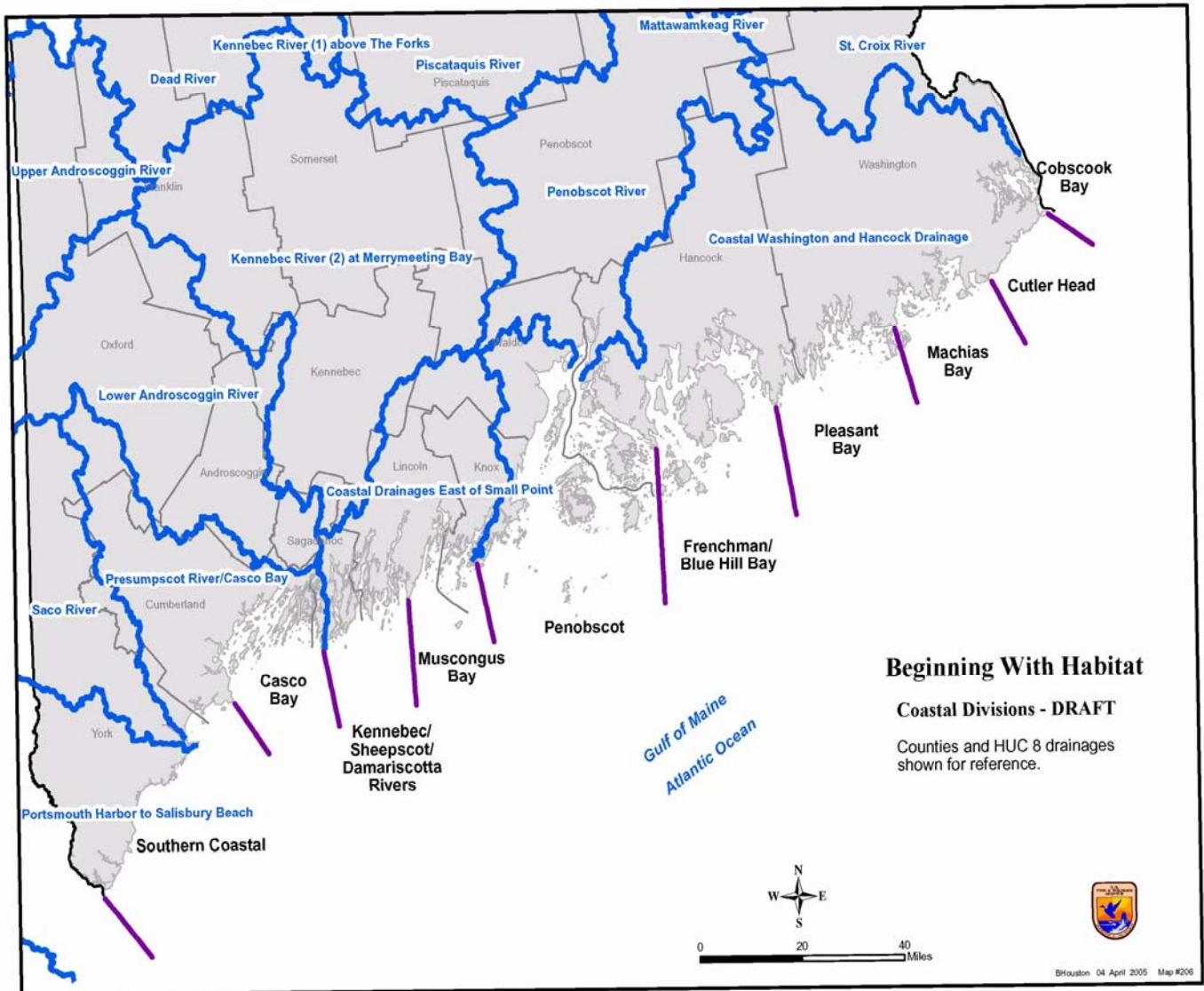
Combination planning/biophysical

- Beginning with Habitat (BwH) coastal divisions
(based on: drainage divides, “An Ecological Characterization of Coastal Maine”, “Environments of Maine’s Glaciated Shoreline” (Joe Kelly), “Maine’s Coastal Wetlands” (Ward), and coastal waterfowl survey divisions). The BWH coastal divisions (created by Bob Houston, USFWS) have not yet been officially adapted by the BWH group.

We concluded that if we were to use coastal districts, it would be important to pay attention to existing administrative divisions (i.e. county lines, regional planning council jurisdictions) and to use one of the generally known and pre-existing methods of dividing the coast into districts. In addition, the specific boundary of any given bay is not clear-cut and depends, at least partly, on the issues that local people are dealing with in that area. Finally, the concept of a ‘bay’ is harder to visualize along the southern coast, where the coast is fairly straight between shallow bays.

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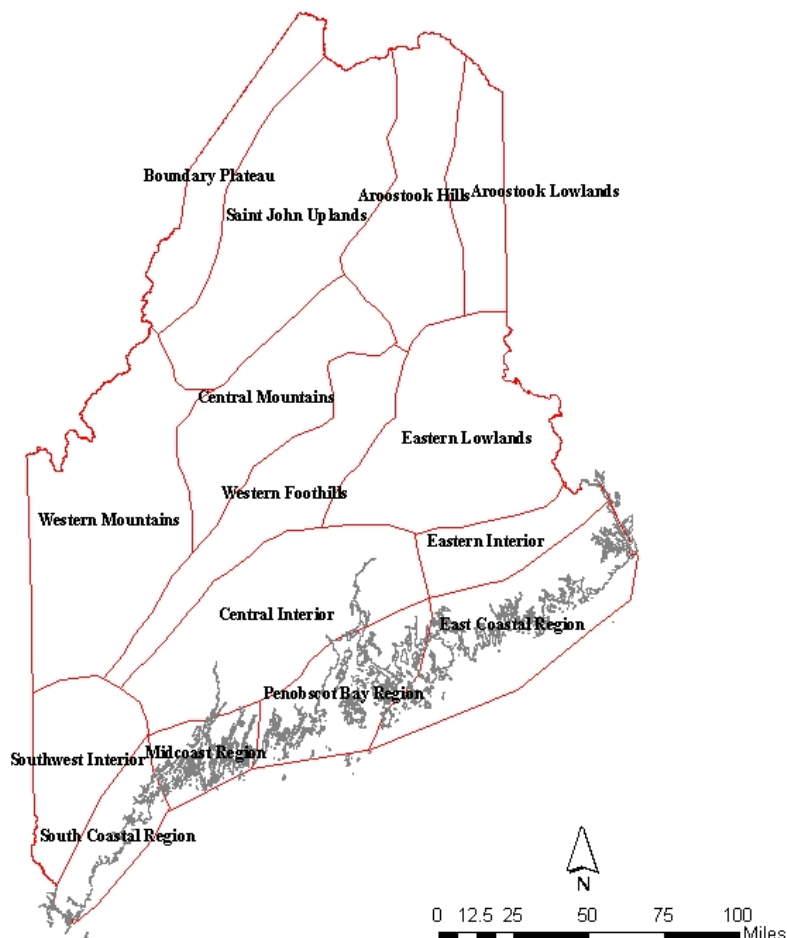


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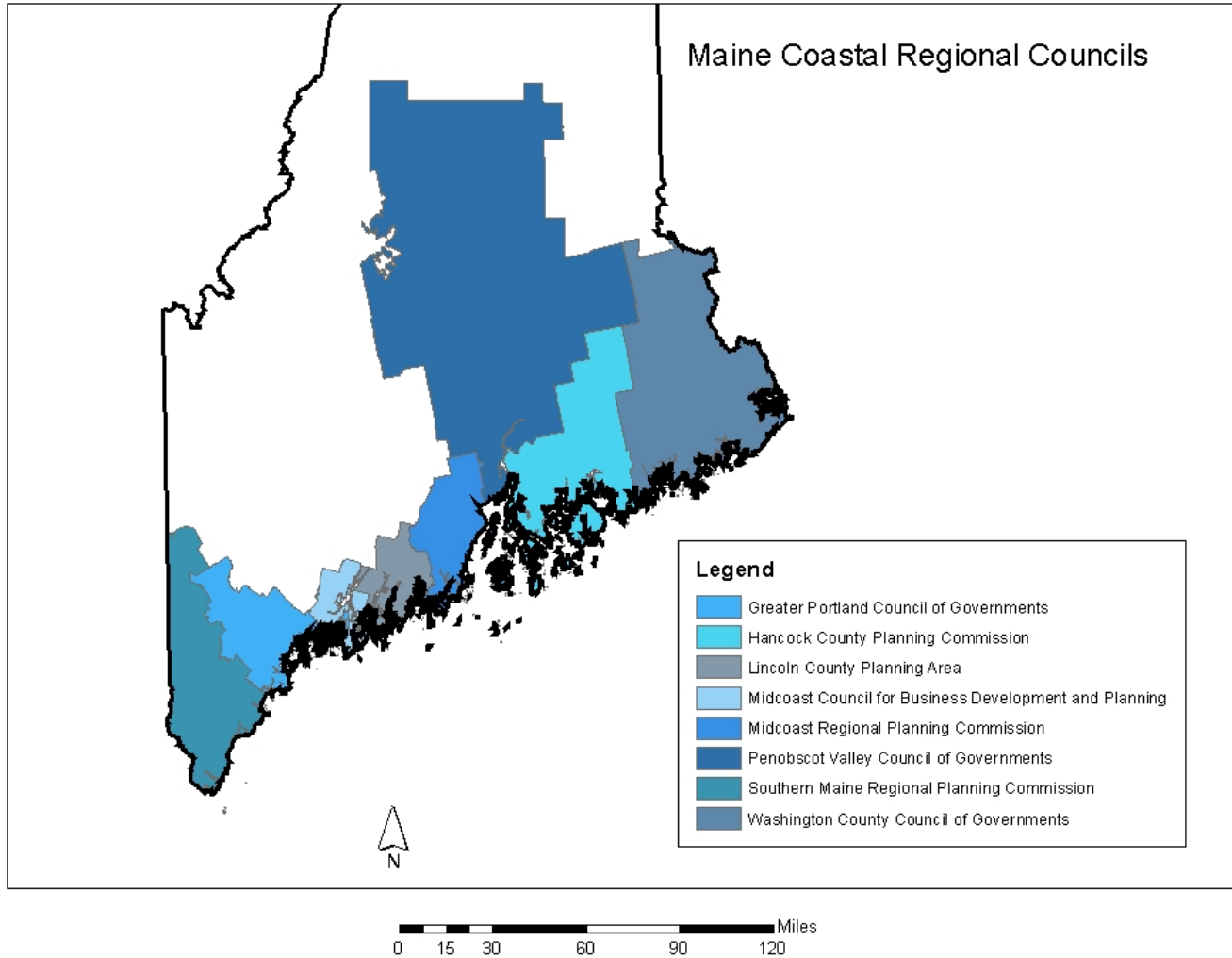
Maine Biophysical Regions

Biophysical regions depict boundaries of 15 Biophysical regions in Maine at 1:250,000 scale. The regions were developed in a statewide classification developed by Janet McMahon, who examined spatial patterns in a number of mapped environmental variables. Ordinations of 1,966 samples, 95 woody taxa, and 22 environmental variables, reveal that both biophysical regions and woody species vary primarily along a climatic gradient of increasing annual temperature, potential evapotranspiration, heat sum, and other factors associated with temperature.



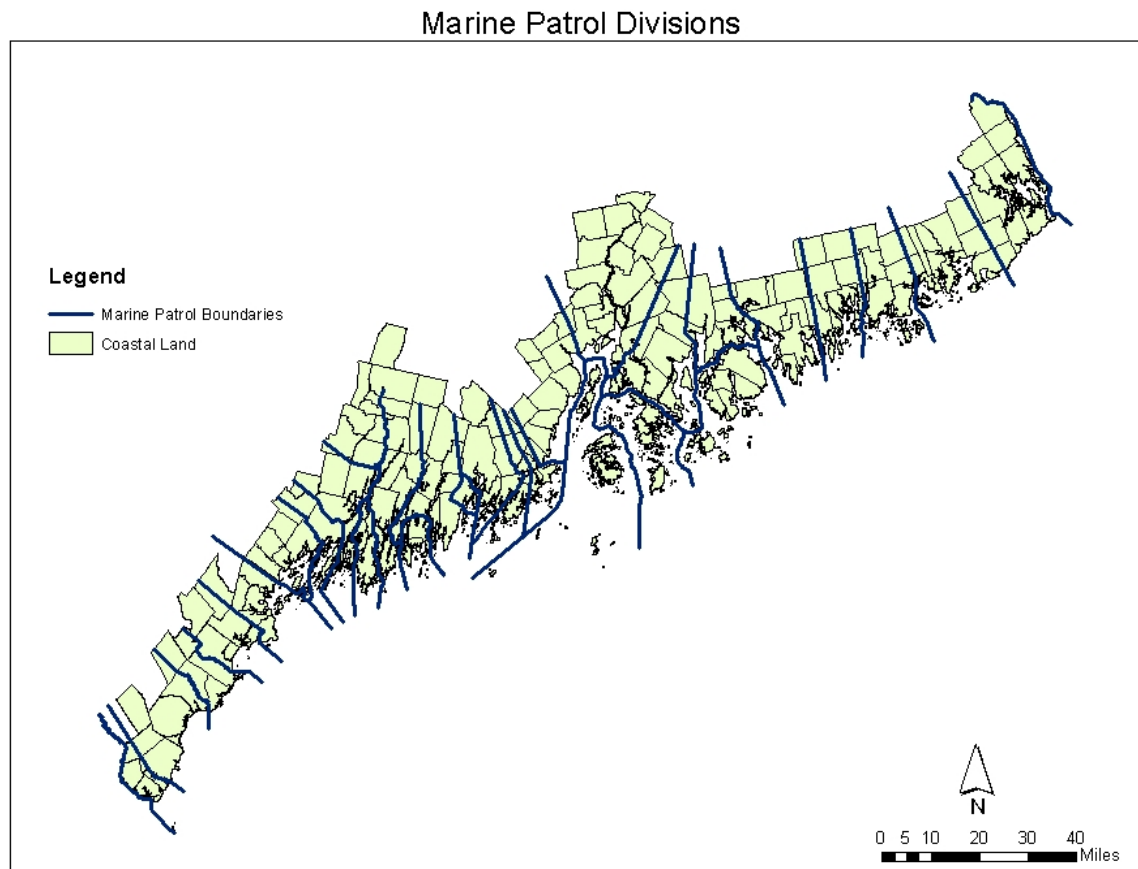
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